USACE CADD NEWSLETTER

Contents

CADD Newsletter

This unofficial newsletter, is authorized under the provisions of AR 25-30, and is intended to keep all Corps personnel who are involved in the use and management of CADD informed of CADD related issues throughout the Corps as well as HQUSACE changes and initiatives which will affect the Engineering business process. The Newsletter will be issued electronically on a quarterly basis. Articles on CADD issues with a broad area of interest are solicited from the field. Send all submissions and/or comments to jean.a.mcginn@usace.army.mil.

The CADD/GIS Technology Center Corporate Staff Meeting

The Corporate Staff of the CADD/GIS Technology Center met at NASA Goddard Space Center in Washington, DC on 19-20 November. Members representing NAVFAC, NAVAIR, USACE, USAF, GSA, NIBS, and ACSIM were present. Mr. Toby Wilson represented the Center at the meeting and gave a presentation on highlights from 2002. Three additions to the FY03 Program (Real Property Enterprise System (RPES), Homeland Security, and Panama Canal Visualization) were presented with suggested project deletions/delays to accommodate the new additions. Two projects were deleted/delayed and the funding for 4 projects was reduced. One of the projects deleted was the Geotechnical Database project submitted by the Geotech FAC. The CS members agreed to give the deleted projects high priority in the FY04 program. The Standards Working Group presented information on their activities, which included the revision to the Consolidated Objects Standards Strategic Plan. A report was given on the status of actions taken by organizations working on Homeland Security – the FGDC and HIFELD. Revisions and updates to the Business Plan and Balanced scorecard were discussed and working groups formed to

address these issues. The International Alliance for Interoperabiliby (IAI) gave a presentation on progress to date in the development of Industry Foundation Classes (IFCs) as well as details of vendors implementing the IFCs. Personnel from Goddard gave a presentation on NASA's Earth Science Program and did a demonstration of the use of GIS in their Environmental Management Program. At the conclusion of the meeting, persons attending were taken on a tour of Goddard Space Center.

SAC/FAC Committee Meeting

The Corps SAC Group met with the FAC Group chairs on 5-6 December at Jekyll Island, GA. Five SAC members and all FAC Chairs (7) attended the meeting.   The SAC committee discussed the need to replace 3 members who have retired. They would like to get new members from NWD, SPD, and POD in order to get more complete Corps-wide representation. Larry Rogers, SAC Chair will make some contacts after the first of the year. Nancy Blyler, HQUSACE GIS proponent presented the need for CADD/GIS interoperability at the process level and suggested that the SAC and FAC groups form ties with the GIS Groups. An additional topic was the need to market CADD technology and its benefits to the rest of the Corps. Each FAC chair presented the accomplishments of his/her committee in FY02 as well as plans for FY03. The Systems FAC Group along with members of the other FACs is setting up a Corps ProjectWise Users Group. ProjectWise is a Bentley Systems software which is used for process control of engineering documents. Currently 13 districts have implemented ProjectWise at differing levels. This Users' Group will be forming up at the beginning of FY03.   Look for information on the initial VTC, Place Ware or conference call on http://ckb.wes.army.mil or contact John Kincaid, MVR-ED-DM. The Cost and Systems FAC committees met on 4 December prior to the SAC/FAC meeting. Minutes for this meeting can be found on http://ckb.wes.army.mil.

FY02 FAC Accomplishments

Systems Committee:
- Did a MDL recompile of Corps developed utilities.
- Participated in a collective meeting with Bentley on needed improvements for MicroStation, and
- had two meetings with Bentley on the ESRI - Bentley coordination, and coordinated development of Corps Bentley-ESRI requirements list.
- Had monthly teleconferences. .
- Started set up of Project Wise users group.
- Did a SWAT visit at Hawaii.
- Worked with Civil Group on InRoads Preference Sets.
- Worked on the File Manager.

Cost Committee:
- Had a very quiet year.

- They worked with On Center Software -- Ray Lynn worked with the committee and negotiated to put the software and maintenance on the CADD2 Contract
- Anticipating the release of M2 cost estimating software.
- Sent out a request for new members to supervisors -- only got one response. Will do a bottoms up contact to see if can get new members.
- Met at Jekyll Island -- gone about as far as can go with the information they have.
- Need to find out what people are using at the districts – what is the most used WBS by districts. Going to develop a survey to send out to get this information to formulate an FY04 project.

Geotech Committee
- A quiet year
- Recently started telephone conferences -- low attendance, but discussion good.
- Will try to have a meeting at the Infrastructure Conference.
- Put together a project that got pushed back to 94.
- Developed list of geotech software used in districts.

Architectural Committee:
- 25 Members, 18 districts have representation. 2 new members.
- Tried monthly conference calls with limited success
- 2 Working Meetings -- Jekyll Island 01& Symposium
- Developed 3 Projects - 2 Approved--Standard Compliant Drawing Set and Architectural Web Page
- Symposium support - Booth & AchiCAD

Structural Committee:
- Membership: 13 official members, 53 POCs
- Details Library Additions: Approx. 250 details ready for STFAC review (funds needed), A handful of details were submitted to the Center at the end of the FY and are now included.
- Structural Website – Experiencing problems with contractor responsiveness, -- it's supposed to be complete.
- Working on utilities with Systems FAC –DocTools and File Manager
- Structural Design Tools and Solutions Symposium Workshop, included a Mathcad and Geopak Rebar Demo
- Completed surveys on non-commercial and commercial software usage and A/E/C CADD Standards Implementation.
- Bentley software technical issues -- sent Bentley responses out to all districts
- Joined the Natioinal CADD Standard Forum

Civil Committee
- Six total members -- lost one this year
- Working with InRoads preference sets.
- Now have the info for the Web Site -- web site down now, need to work it out.
- Need to work with CADD/GIS integration

Mech/Elec Committee
- Stable at 6 members
- No success in getting POCs at other districts.

- One project submitted and funded this year -- Objects in TriForma project.
- Evaluated standards, and submitted Fort Worth file naming convention to the Center for inclusion in the Standards
- Discussed Project Wise

SAC Committee Members

The current SAC Committee members are:
- Larry Rogers, CESWF, Chair
- Art Connolly, CENAN
- John Bailen, CEMVP
- Gerard Satterlee, CEMVN
- Daniel Hitchings, CELRP
- Ralph Barrett, CESAS
- Jean McGinn, HQUSACE

Field Action CADD (FAC) Committees

The names and e-mails of FAC members are no longer listed on the Corps CADD web site (http://ckb.wes.army.mil) due to security concerns since 9/11. If you are interested in information about any of the FACs, the names and districts of the chairs are listed below.

Geotechnical FAC: Chair Glen Kato, TAC.
Mechanical/Electrical FAC: Chair Ken Waldie, Fort Worth.
Cost FAC: Chair Gareth Clausen, Walla Walla.
Structural FAC: Chair Lorilee Taylor, St. Paul.
Systems FAC: Chair John Kincaid, Rock Island. .
Architectural FAC: Chair Stan Shirk, Omaha.
Civil/Site FAC: Chair Edward Murphy, Fort Worth.

If you are interested in being a POC for your particular discipline for any of these committees, please contact the appropriate chair by e-mail.

InRoads v8.2/v8.3 Preference Files Updated to AEC CADD Standard, v2.0.

The Civil Field Action CADD Committee has contracted with InStep Software to modify the InRoads (Bentley Systems) civil design software default preference files to meet Version 2.0 of the AEC CADD Standard. Modified preference files will be available for Version 8.2 (compatible with Microstation v7) and Version 8.3 (compatible with Microstation v8 only) of InRoads. The final product will place output information (contours, alignment information, etc.) at the level and

symbology required by the AEC CADD Standard. A preliminary version of the product was submitted at the end of December and is currently being reviewed. The final product for Microstation users should be available in January 2003. An AutoCAD version will be available in the near future. A setup utility will be provided to assist with the installation. The final product will be available for all Corps District offices and the location will be announced in the next CADD Newsletter. *Submitted by Ed Murphy, CESWF, Civil FAC Chair*

Standards Implementation in USACE

A memorandum was signed by Dwight Beranek and sent out to all MSCs on 21 August 2002, Subject: Architectural, Engineering and Construction (A/E/C) Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) Standards and Spatial Data Standards for Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment (SDSFIE). An e-mail copy of the memorandum was sent to all MSC and District Chiefs of Engineering. Information on aids to standards implementation is found in Enclosure 1 of the memorandum. For a copy of the memorandum e-mail Jean McGinn.

Not all MSCs/Districts have responded to the memo, but those that have are at differing points in their implementation of the standards. Some districts indicate a commitment to full compliance, with ongoing training in the standards, while others plan to be compliant in future years. Two districts indicated that they would schedule SWAT visits in FY03, and one district has arranged for the Center to give a three-day training session on site.

Some reasons given for non-compliance are: 1. Cost of conversion of old files, 2. Process of site adapting legacy designs, 3. Constant changes in standards, 4. Cost of implementation and training, 5. Complexity, 6. Need to use customer standards, 7. Differences with the National CAD Standards, 8. Not compatible with CW, and 8. No value added. Huntington District, which is a Civil Works District, has successfully implemented the standards and is working with the Center on required changes to make the standards more usable for CW projects. The Structural and Civil FACs have also been working with the Center to suggest changes and additions to the standards. Contact the chairs of these groups to see what you can do to help, and read the article below.

CADD/GIS Technology Center Standards Comment Form

If you have concerns about items in the Center's A/E/C CADD or Spatial Data Standards you need to go to the Center's new "CADD/GIS Center Standards Comment Form. In an effort to provide an avenue by which users of the A/E/C CADD Standard and/or the Spatial Data Standard for Facilities, Infrastructure and Environment can communicate their opinions concerning these products, the Center has developed a comment website. Submit as many recommendations as you like regarding either standard. You can also request a CD of either standard using the site." This form is accessible from the Center's main web page, http://tsc.wes.army.mil. From this site you can submit comments and also view disposition of any comments submitted.

CADD/GIS Technology Center (the Center) Call for FY04 Projects

A call for projects for FY04 will be issued by the Center in late January or early February, and submittals will be due the middle of March. Now is the time for you to start thinking about a project that would be of benefit to the field. The Center Field Working Groups will evaluate project submittals at their May meeting. The Center will put together a draft program and submit it to the Corporate Staff at their July meeting, where the projects will be discussed and voted on. A proposed program will be developed at that meeting for submittal to the Board of Directors for approval in August.

Basic and Advanced Spatial Data Standard (SDSFIE) Implementation Workshop

The next workshop for the implementation of the SDSFIE will be held 3 – 7 February 2003. The basic and advanced workshops can be taken together (sequentially on the above dates) or individually. The fee for the combined course is $1500; the fee for the individual basic course is $1000, and for the individual advanced course the fee is $800. Contact Bobby Carpenter at the Center for Registration.

Call for Articles

All but one of the articles in this issue of the Newsletter were written by Jean McGinn, CECW-EE. I would encourage anyone in the field who has CADD related information of general interest to Corps personnel to submit articles (to my e-mail address) for the next issue, which should be issued the end of December 2002.